



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

An F-16 goes through a final inspection before taking off from Balad Air Base, Iraq. The fighter squadrons from the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing provide close air support to troops on the ground.

Waiting in the wings

F-16 pilots provide support for troops on the battlefield

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

In an instant they're gone, but the 510th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron's F-16s can be found in the skies above Iraq, providing air support for servicemembers fighting against insurgents on the ground.

The 510th EFS provides support for ground commanders throughout the country. These tasks include close air support, shows of force, scouring the countryside for insurgents, and reconnaissance.

Operations members handle pre-flight briefings, mission planning, going over intelligence reports and detailed coordination with the Army prior to missions. Pilots inspect their aircraft prior

to take-off, working hand in hand with skilled maintainers to ensure each mission goes off without a hitch. While the "stick and rudder" flying aspect hasn't changed, some sorties find these Viper pilots employing their weapons system in non-traditional ways, such as convoy escort, raid support and infrastructure reconnaissance.

Major John Bosone, 510th EFS assistant director of operations, stressed the pilots tackle these missions with the same vigor as the 510th's bread and butter – close air support.

"We were well prepared for this mission. We train, exercise and tactically integrate with our Army counterparts every day back home," said Major Bosone.

First Lt. Christopher Jones, an F-16 pilot, commented on other missions of the F-16.

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Another line of defense



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Honoring wing heritage



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Fostering leadership



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IAF members flying high

By Tech. Sgt. **Melissa Phillips**
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq -- The more than 100 Iraqi Air Force Airmen assigned to the Squadron 23 (transport) recently got a thumbs up on their ongoing training to fly and maintain three C-130s.

The Sq 23 Advisory Support Team, a crew of seasoned U.S. Air Force instructors assigned to both the 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron have recently graduated their IAF students to the next level of training.

On June 13, two pilots flew the plane without a U.S. Air Force pilot sitting at the controls and one crew member is completely qualified to fly a C-130.

The 70 logistics technicians manning 10 different career fields including crew

chiefs, aerial port workers, supply technicians and engine mechanics have also made significant progress.

Within the last month, all the students have attained their phase four certification, which is equivalent to a 5-skill level in the U.S. Air Force.

"If I could give them an A+ on their training, I would," said Maj. Gerald McCray, 777th EAMXS advisory support team maintenance flight commander.

The students are now entered into phase five, which is equivalent to a U.S. Air Force 7-level certification.

"We are currently integrating them into flight line operations," said Major McCray. "They're out there catching aircraft, launching them out, inspecting and fixing them just like any U.S. Airmen would do."

News and Notes

Volunteers needed

The 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group has volunteer opportunities available in the following areas: morale tent, medical logistics, emergency department, inpatient units, facilities management, hospital dining facility, medical control center, operating room and the contingency aeromedical staging facility. For more information or to volunteer, contact Maj. Mari Chamberlain at 443-8531.

PT uniform mandatory

The Air Force PT uniform is mandatory for all Air Force personnel inside and outside of H6. The PT uniform can be purchased at the base PX or the mini PX in H6.

Taking over command

Colonel Jon Roop accepts the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group guidon from Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, at a change of command ceremony July 8. Colonel Roop previously served as Expeditionary Plans and Operations Branch chief at Headquarters United States European Command, Stuttgart, Germany.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Robertson

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Photos by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Following his pre-flight checks, 1st Lt. Christopher Jones, an F-16 pilot with the 510th Expeditionary Fighter

Squadron, closes the canopy to his aircraft before a mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

PILOTS, from Page 1

"We train to take out fixed targets, defended by surface-to-air and air-to-air defenses." Lieutenant Jones added that while challenging, employing against fixed targets is not nearly as rewarding as supporting American and coalition forces on the ground.

"During interdiction missions, the nearest friendly forces may be hundreds of miles away," Major Bosone remarked. "In CAS, our guys may be within hundreds of feet of the enemy."

Fortunately for troops on the ground, the Air Force has equipped its aircraft with the latest technology for dropping precision guided munitions, noted Lieutenant Jones.

"We have some of the most advanced capabilities at our disposal," he said. "Our success comes from realistic training, hard work, fantastic equipment, and sometimes, just making a lot of noise."

Both Major Bosone and Lieutenant Jones agree that their deployment with the 510th EFS has been a humbling experience.

"We are involved in major operations here," said Major Bosone. "But we are just a small part of this important mission."

Lieutenant Jones echoed the major's pride in their mission.

"I am proud of the work we have done so far, and I look forward to supporting the operation in the future," Lieutenant Jones said.

Each time an F-16 takes off, and the sound the engine rumbles across Balad, know that members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing are doing their part to help out their brothers in arms by patrolling the skies like angels on their shoulders.



(Above and left) First Lieutenant Christopher Jones completes inspections of his aircraft before departure. Pilots work alongside maintainers to ensure each mission goes off without a hitch. Using the training they receive at their home stations, pilots are employing their weapons systems to provide convoy escort, raid support and infrastructure reconnaissance for troops on the ground.

Escorts provide protection for fellow servicemembers

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

They've got your back. Third country national and local national escorts provide a force protection buffer to fellow Airmen.

Third country nationals and local nationals make up a large percentage of the workforce completing construction projects and doing day-to-day jobs around the installation. A TCN escort's job is to monitor workers and provide security.

For many escorts, the job requires long days in the scorching sun, with weapon in hand and a careful eye watching for suspicious activities.

According to Master Sgt. Preston Stafford, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron force protection manager, TCN/LN escorts are not only doing their jobs, but seem to be enjoying their jobs.

"It's really cool to learn about different cultures," said Airman 1st Class Aaron Martin. "You have the opportunity to learn new languages and traditions." Airman Martin said he's even picked up a little Turkish and Arabic.

Although the interaction between third country and local nationals can be friendly, make no mistake, TCN/LN escorts

know the importance of their job and the risks associated.

"We're here to make sure bad people can't do bad things to people on base," said Sergeant Stafford. "The Air Force takes force protection seriously."

Escort duty is an overwhelmingly volunteer program, said Sergeant Stafford.

The fact that escorts come from a wide variety of Air Force specialty codes provides the group with a range of expertise that can make life easier for escorts.

"Our diversity is our strength," said Sergeant Stafford. "We have a staff sergeant who is a transportation guy, so he can take care of our vehicles, and our medical people put together better first aid kits and supplied first response training."

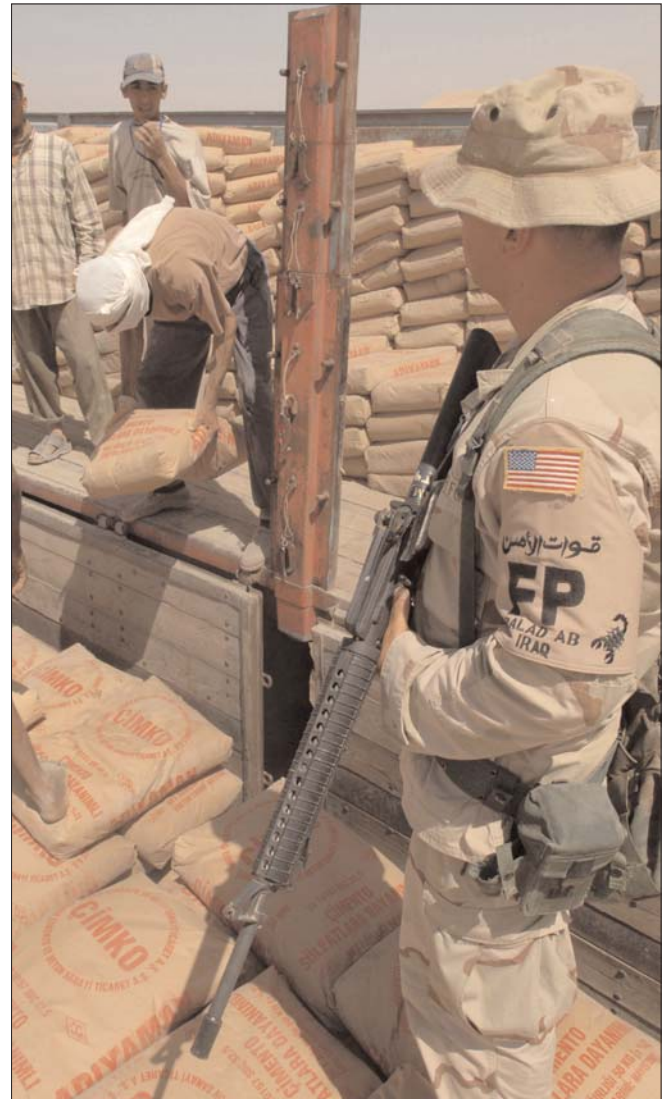
The job of TCN/LN escort is very beneficial to both the Air Force and Iraqi people, said Sergeant Stafford.

"By having TCNs and LNs working here, the military can leave more Americans at home," he said. "In addition, we are helping to stimulate the local economy by providing jobs."

By providing a buffer between workers on base and deployed servicemembers, escorts keep their fellow Airmen safe.



Senior Airman Laura McLean, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, watches workers offload materials from a plane on the flight line at Balad.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

Staff Sgt. Wayne Schenk, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, watches over local Iraqi workers at Balad.



Senior Airman Othelia Richards, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, observes a TCN truck convoy delivering concrete mix to Balad.

Wing to celebrate Tuskegee heritage

AET 5/6 DINING IN PRESENTED BY THE RED TAIL 5/6 COMMITTEE



JULY 23, 2005 AT TOWN HALL

**COCKTAIL SOCIAL BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 1800
FOLLOWED BY EVENT STARTING AT 1830**

CONTACT YOUR SQUADRON FIRST SERGEANT TO SIGN UP

By Staff Sgt. **Kaia Pinnock**
332nd Expeditionary Contracting Squadron

A more than 70-year-old military tradition is coming to the Balad Air Base, Iraq. It's the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's dining in, held July 23 at Town Hall.

The night's theme will celebrate the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. The Wing honors them through its Red Tail heritage on the anniversary of the establishment of Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Ala.

In March 1941, the Army Air Corps announced the formation of its first-ever black combat unit, the 99th Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron. Reflecting contemporary American custom and War Department policy, Tuskegee's black aviators remained segregated in an all-black organization. The unit was to include forty-seven officers and 429 enlisted men; ground crews were to train at Chanute Army Air Field, Ill., while pilots trained at Tuskegee.

Primary flight training took place in Tuskegee Institute's Division of Aeronautics, with beginning flying lessons at the school's Moton Field. Advanced training and transition to military aircraft were conducted at nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field, which was officially established July 23, 1941.

The purpose of a dining in is to enhance the esprit de corps, lighten the load of demanding day-to-day work, give commanders an opportunity to meet socially with their subordinates and enable military members of all ranks to create bonds of friendship and better working relations through an atmosphere of good fellowship.

Contact your first sergeant for ticket information. Seats are limited.



Photo by Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**

Prevention is the key

Staff Sgt. Mellisa Smith, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, administers a shot of anthrax vaccine to Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander. The anthrax vaccination is available to Airmen deployed to Balad Air Base as part of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program emergency use authorization. Airmen have the choice to accept or decline the shot. Those who have received the vaccination before will pick up where they left off. Guidance is available from the Air Force clinic here. For more information, call 443-7233.

Molding future Air Force leaders

Chief passes on teachings to servicemembers during leadership class

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Using his past experience as an Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy instructor, Chief Master Sgt. John Hearn, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron manager, taught six leadership classes at Town Hall here from June 28 to Thursday. These classes for front line supervisors help to lay the groundwork for their future success as Air Force supervisors.

Chief Hearn spent two years at the academy teaching leadership. He said he's been associated with good professional development courses throughout his Air Force career and wanted to pass some of his experiences along to the Airmen station at Balad.

When he arrived here in October 2004, Balad had no professional development courses. He set out to change that. Chief Hearn said leadership directly affects the mission and its people. He hopes to pave a smooth path for junior leaders who will carry out future missions here.

"Anyone can lead," said Chief Hearn, "but it takes a lot of work to be an effective leader." In Chief Hearn's opinion, an

effective leader is someone who gets the most out of their people while ensuring those people still feel good about themselves.

He said personal experience has taught him that leadership can't be learned overnight.

"Everyone makes mistakes," he said, "including me. But I want to make sure our future leaders have less trips and stumbles in their careers than I did."

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, attended a recent class to offer his views on leadership. With the ever-changing battlefield, he said it is crucial to mission success that current leaders prepare future leaders to get the job done.

"Leadership is vital to the Air Force. If we don't have a dugout full of people to fill in the leadership roles, how good can we be?" said General Gorenc.

Chief Hearn said he didn't develop the class to earn himself any special recognition. He just wanted to strengthen junior enlisted and prepare them for the future. "Hearing one person come up to me and tell me that something I taught them has had a positive effect makes it all worth it," the chief said.



Photo by Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, speaks on the importance of good leadership to servicemembers attending the leadership class July 7.

Look out below

Private Seth Baker, Delta Company 13 Aviation Reconnaissance Battalion at Camp Taji, Iraq, dives into the base pool at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The base pool is located beside the base theatre. The outdoor pool is open 5 a.m. to midnight everyday.



Photo by Staff Sgt. **Chad Chisholm**

Taking on 'mid-AEF tour blahs'

Complacency threatens Airmen deployed to Balad Air Base

By Col. Russ Turner

332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing is a winning team – but one of the biggest threats to any winning team is complacency. After two months here, many Balad Airmen, especially those from AEF 5/6 rotation, are now jaded by the too-recognizable alarm red sirens, and can be almost casual in response.

It's very easy to let down our guard. Once established in one area, complacency can spill over into our duty sections and the way we treat our deployed teammates as well as ourselves.

Everyone here is very good at what they do – the winning first-string team. Once over the newness of Balad, which seems to occur near mid-AEF cycle, many Airmen get comfortable and let their thoughts wander. They then become a prime candidate for an accident – and this can happen to anybody.

Many also become restless, and with consistent high temperatures over 110 degrees it's easy to take restlessness out on our coworkers and friends. Medical group staff have talked to folks all over base in different units and the story is the same: many folks have a case of the mid-tour blahs. It's that combination of complacency, comfort and familiarity that sets us up for accidents, and taking our other deployed teammates for granted.

The best defense against complacency and taking our Balad friends for granted is to simply know that it may happen, and recognize it when it begins. In medical school, they always teach 'you won't find a disease unless you know to look for it.' It's the same with the mid-tour blahs.

Try to catch yourself when your attention wanders, or find yourself cross with your coworkers and friends for no reason. Keep an eye out for it developing in your section – this is one disease that is highly contagious!

The good news is that it's also easily treated by simply recognizing it for what it is, then pausing a moment to reset your thoughts and regain your mental discipline. Part of the 'pathology' of the AEF blahs is unused energy that becomes undisciplined and uncontrolled; it stores up, making you anxious or irritable – then boom!

When you see it happening with your buds, just call it for what it is. Break the cycle with a refreshment pause or a kind word and get back on track. Prevention is also easy – some exercise, outside air, a hobby or anything that takes that extra energy away. Spend the energy that might distract your mind or lash out at your friends.

If you're a leader, keep an eye on unit accident rates, productivity and morale. The 332 AEW is truly an outstanding unit with great folks – so it's important to know we have to be especially vigilant for that special disease of the best and brightest, the complacency of the AEF mid-tour blahs.



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Lt. Col. Spencer Frink, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group orthopedic surgeon, and Col. Russell Turner, 332nd EMGD commander, keep spirits high at the Air Force theater hospital.

Diamond notes

When wearing the official Air Force PT uniform, female hair must be neat and not allowed to hang loose below the collar. Long hair must be tied back. Hair can hang below the collar when in a pony tail.

From the desk of the 332nd AEW first sergeant

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional

Sundays
7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 11 a.m.

Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Gospel

Sundays
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. MWR Tent 29th SPT BN

Wednesdays

7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

Latter Day Saints

Sundays

1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

8 a.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

Islamic Prayer

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

Meet your neighbor



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Captain Eddy Fournier

Home station: Shaw Air Force Base, SC.

Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron site planner

Hobbies: Cooking, singing

How do you contribute to the mission?

I provide long range planning for civil engineering projects.

What is your favorite aspect of deployment?

Working with great people.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home?

I miss home-cooked meals.

Know what this is?

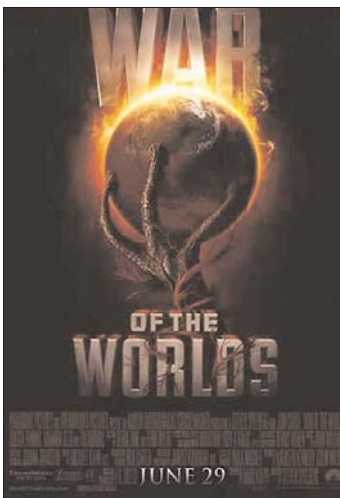


Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. Last week's photo of a fire extinguisher was first identified by Chief Master Sgt. Brian Briggs, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron.

Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today

3 p.m. - House of Wax
6 p.m. - War of the Worlds
9 p.m. - War of the Worlds

Saturday, July 9

3 p.m. - The Interpreter
6 p.m. - XXX: State of the Union
9 p.m. - War of the Worlds

Sunday, July 10

3 p.m. - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
6 p.m. - Sahara
9 p.m. - XXX: State of the Union

Monday, July 11

3 p.m. - War of the Worlds

6 p.m. - XXX: State of the Union
9 p.m. - House of Wax

Tuesday, July 12

3 p.m. - Cursed
6 p.m. - War of the Worlds
9 p.m. - The Interpreter

Wednesday, July 13

3 p.m. - XXX: State of the Union
6 p.m. - House of Wax
9 p.m. - Sin City

Thursday, July 14

3 p.m. - House of Wax
6 p.m. - XXX: State of the Union
9 p.m. - War of the Worlds

